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BULLETIN

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Original Articles
by

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SECTION ON MICROBIOLOGY

BULLETIN OF THE NEW YORK
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

CONTENTS

Renal Tubule Work: Its Significance For The Clinician	137
<i>L. H. Newburgh</i>	
Disturbances In Electrolyte Metabolism In Man and Their Management	147
<i>Daniel C. Darrow</i>	
Metabolism In Old Age	166
<i>N. W. Shock</i>	
The Use Of Androgen In Men	179
<i>Carl G. Heller and William O. Maddock</i>	
Section on Microbiology:	
The Etiology and Epidemiology of Infectious Hepatitis, <i>W. Paul Havens, Jr.</i>	195
The Pathology of Epidemic Hepatitis, <i>Tracy B. Mallory</i>	197
Infectious Hepatitis: Clinical Aspects, <i>Henry G. Kunkel</i>	199
Discussion of Papers on Infectious Hepatitis, <i>Perrin H. Long</i>	200
Further Discussion— <i>S. Sherlock and S. Karelitz</i> .	201
Library Notes:	
Library Notes and Accessions	203

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LIBRARY NOTES AND ACCESSIONS

THE BARD COLLECTION

GIFT OF THE FRIENDS OF THE RARE BOOK ROOM

"The manner of my examination was as follows, on the first day I had not the most distant hint what was to be the subject of my tryal. I went in trembling . . ." Thus wrote Samuel Bard to his father, John Bard, before recounting the questions put to him in his final examinations at Edinburgh in 1765. This correspondence between father and son provides an important source for the study of medical education in Scotland during the 1760's. These thirty-two letters with valuable biographical and genealogical material relating to Samuel Bard and his descendants constitute a unique gift made recently by the Friends of the Rare Book Room.

The Bards were the outstanding medical family of New York in their time, and it is fitting that their letters should be deposited in this Library. Those written by John Bard offer not only advice to his son but items of local interest as well. Those from Samuel's pen, besides detailing his studies, plans and adventures abroad, refer to the activities of his own countrymen. He writes with some misspelling, on December 29, 1762, "You no doubt have heard that Doctr. Shippen has opened an Anatomical Class at Philadelphia, his character here as an anatomist is very good & I dare say he shines accordingly at Philadelphia, you perhaps are not acquainted with the whole of that scheem, it is not to stop with anatomy, but to found under the Patronage of Doctr. Fothergill, a medical Colledge in that Place; Mr. Morgan who is to graduate next spring, & will be over in the fall, intends to lecture upon the Theory & Practice of Physick, and I dare say is equal to the undertaking. I wish with all my heart they were at New York, that I might have a share amongst

them, and assist in founding the first Physical Colledge in America. I do not want Ambition to prompt me to an undertaking of this kind at New York . . . but I am afraid that being so near the Philadelphians, who will have the start of us by several years, will be a great obstacle, and another allmost insurmountable one is the Parties which exist in New York; for if such a thing was to be undertaken it ought to be in conjunction with the Colledge which alone would be sufficient, to make the Presbyterian partie our enimys. . . ."

The Friends of the Rare Book Room of the Library of The New York Academy of Medicine, Inc., was organized in 1946 for the purpose of promoting interest in the possessions of the Rare Book Room and to raise funds for purchasing books, manuscripts and autograph letters to add to its collection. Besides the generous gifts already made to the Rare Book Room, the Friends have been responsible for stimulating its members to present many volumes from their own libraries. While these first efforts promise well for the future, the Friends urge all Fellows of the Academy to become members, with annual dues ranging from \$10.00 upwards. Communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Dr. Frederic D. Zeman, 17 East 89th Street.

* * *

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